GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:673
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2007
INTERNATIONAL CARGO SERVICE BY AIR INDIA
Tripathy Shri Braja Kishore

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has started its international cargo operation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of aircrafts engaged for such operations;

(d) whether Air India had discontinued their cargo operations in the earlier;

(e) if so, the details and the reasons therefor; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government for the success of cargo operation this time?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL)

(a),(b) and (c): Yes, Sir. Air India has commenced its international cargo operations from 27 June, 2007 with one A310F aircraft operating four flights per week from India to Europe. With the induction of the second cargo aircraft on 2nd August, 2007, the flights have now been increased from four to seven per week.

(d) and (e): Yes Sir. Air India had discontinued the operation of freighter aircraft which were taken on lease almost a decade ago. The operations were discontinued due to high lease costs of freighter aircraft and revenue loss.

(f): Air India has converted two of its A310 passenger aircraft into dedicated freighter aircraft, which would help the airline tap the air cargo business effectively.